

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8, 9, 20, 21, 23-26, 34-37, 42 and 43.

1. (originally presented) An article comprising:
a porous expanded PTFE material having a microstructure defined by nodes interconnected by fibrils wherein the nodes are aligned to form one or more columns in the thickness direction of the material, and
at least one polymer resin selected from the group consisting of thermoset resins and thermoplastic resins distributed within the pores of the expanded PTFE.
2. (originally presented) The article of claim 1, wherein said one or more columns comprises a plurality of nodes.
3. (originally presented) The article of claim 1, wherein said one or more columns comprises a single node.
4. (originally presented) The article of claim 1, wherein said at least one polymer resin comprises an epoxy.
5. (originally presented) The article of claim 1, wherein said at least one polymer resin comprises a polyimide.
6. (originally presented) The article of claim 1, wherein said expanded PTFE comprises two or more layers of expanded PTFE.
7. (originally presented) The article of claim 1, wherein said expanded PTFE further includes at least one filler.
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (originally presented) The article of claim 1, wherein said article further comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive bonded to said article.
11. (originally presented) The article of claim 1, further comprising at least one substrate bonded to said article.
12. (originally presented) The article of claim 11, wherein said at least one substrate comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of metal and epoxy.
13. (originally presented) A bearing material comprising:
a porous expanded PTFE material having a microstructure defined by nodes interconnected by fibrils wherein the nodes are aligned to form one or more columns in the thickness direction of the material, and

at least one wear resistant polymer resin distributed within the pores of the expanded PTFE.

14. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, wherein said one or more columns comprises a plurality of nodes.
15. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, wherein said one or more columns comprises a single node.
16. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, wherein said at least one polymer resin comprises an epoxy.
17. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, wherein said at least one polymer resin comprises a polyimide.
18. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, wherein said expanded PTFE structure comprises two or more layers of expanded PTFE.
19. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, wherein said expanded PTFE further includes at least one filler.
20. (cancelled)
21. (cancelled)
22. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, in the form of a wear-resistant surface.
23. (cancelled)
24. (cancelled)
25. (cancelled)
26. (cancelled)
27. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, wherein said article further comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive bonded to said bearing material.
28. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 13, further comprising at least one substrate bonded to said bearing material.
29. (originally presented) The bearing material of claim 28, wherein said at least one substrate comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of metal and epoxy.
30. (originally presented) An article comprising:
a composite comprising a porous expanded PTFE material having a microstructure defined by nodes interconnected by fibrils wherein the nodes are aligned to form one or more columns in the thickness direction of the material, and
at least one polymer resin selected from the group consisting of thermoset resins and thermoplastic resins distributed within the pores of the expanded PTFE; and

a substrate bonded to said composite.

31. (originally presented) The article of claim 30, wherein said one or more columns comprises a plurality of nodes.
32. (originally presented) The article of claim 30, wherein said one or more columns comprises a single node.
33. (originally presented) The article of claim 30, in the form of a wear-resistant surface.
34. (cancelled)
35. (cancelled)
36. (cancelled)
37. (cancelled)
38. (originally presented) The article of claim 30, wherein said at least one polymer resin comprises an epoxy.
39. (originally presented) The article of claim 30, wherein said at least one polymer resin comprises a polyimide.
40. (originally presented) The article of claim 30, wherein said expanded PTFE comprises two or more layers of expanded PTFE.
41. (originally presented) The article of claim 30, wherein said expanded PTFE further includes at least one filler.
42. (cancelled)
43. (cancelled)
44. (originally presented) A method of forming a bearing material comprising:
 - providing a porous expanded PTFE material having a microstructure defined by nodes interconnected by fibrils wherein the nodes are aligned to form one or more columns in the thickness direction of the material;
 - imbibing in at least a portion of the porosity at least one polymer resin selected from the group consisting of thermosetting resins and thermoplastic resins;
 - and
 - curing said at least one polymer resin.
45. (originally presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising bonding said imbibed expanded PTFE material to a substrate.